

School Bus "S" Endorsement

- [School Bus Endorsement Supplemental Manual](#)

Beginning October 1, 2005, a person who drives a school bus, or who transports pre-primary, primary or secondary school students for school-related activity trips in a commercial motor vehicle other than a school bus, must have a CDL with the new, school bus "S" endorsement.

The S endorsement will apply to operation of any commercial motor vehicle (CMV) used to transport pre-primary, primary or secondary students from:

- home to school
- school to home
- to and from school-sponsored events

A bus used as a common carrier is not considered to be a school bus.

After September 30, 2005, a CDL with a passenger "P" endorsement alone will no longer be valid for operation of a traditional yellow school bus or another CMV while transporting school students for activity trips.

To qualify for an S endorsement, bus drivers must pass a written and skills (driving) test. Drivers may take the written test and schedule their driving test at any [driver exam station](#).

This summer, in order to qualify as many current school bus drivers as possible for the new S endorsement, written tests may be administered by the Motor Vehicle Division at locations other than a driver exam station, if special arrangements have been made. Check with your employer or with Maxine Mougeot of Pupil Transportation at the Office of Public Instruction, (406) 444-3096, for dates and locations.

Skills Test Waiver

Prior to September 30, 2005 only, some drivers who apply for the S endorsement may qualify to have the skills test waived if the driver:

- has been regularly employed as a school bus driver
- has operated a school bus representative of the class of vehicle for which he or she seeks the endorsement
- provides evidence of employment as a school bus driver for the previous two-year period

The [School Bus Endorsement Skills Test Waiver](#) (Form 20-2100) must be completed by the applying driver and the driver's employer(s) for the two-year period preceding the application.

Drivers who do not qualify for the skills test waiver must schedule an appointment for a skills test through a local [driver exam station](#).